

MARVEL

RATED 7+

151

**COSTA
SANDOVAL
ALMARA**

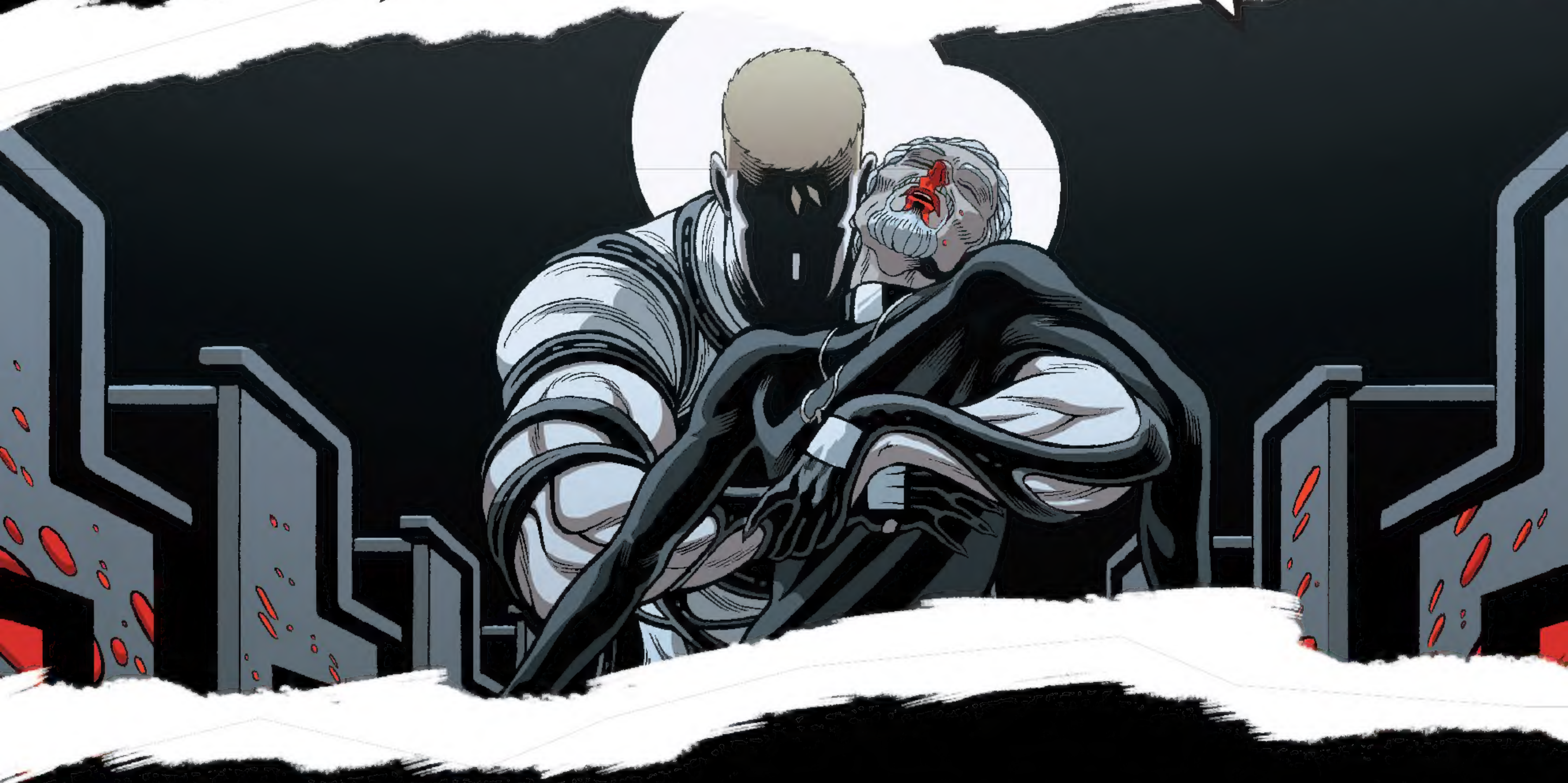
THE
LAND
BEFORE CRIME
STARTS HERE!



VENOM®

YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



EDDIE BROCK AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAVE BEEN REUNITED, BUT BOTH OF THEM HAVE CHANGED SINCE THEY WERE LAST TOGETHER. VENOM'S MOST RECENT HOST WAS DANGEROUS, VIOLENT, AND CONTROLLING, AND HIS TIME WITH THE SYMBIOTE HAS LEFT IT EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE. IT STILL WANTS TO BE A HERO, BUT IT IS STRUGGLING TO CONTAIN ITS MORE VIOLENT IMPULSES. WHEN THE PRIEST AT EDDIE'S CHURCH, ADVISED HIM TO AVOID CONTROLLING INFLUENCES, THE SYMBIOTE BECAME ANGRY. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, EDDIE FOUND HIMSELF BACK IN THE CHURCH WITH THE PRIEST'S BLOOD ON HIS HANDS...

THE LAND BEFORE CRIME

PART ONE

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NO, THIS IS
STUPID.

THIS
ISN'T SCARY
AT ALL.

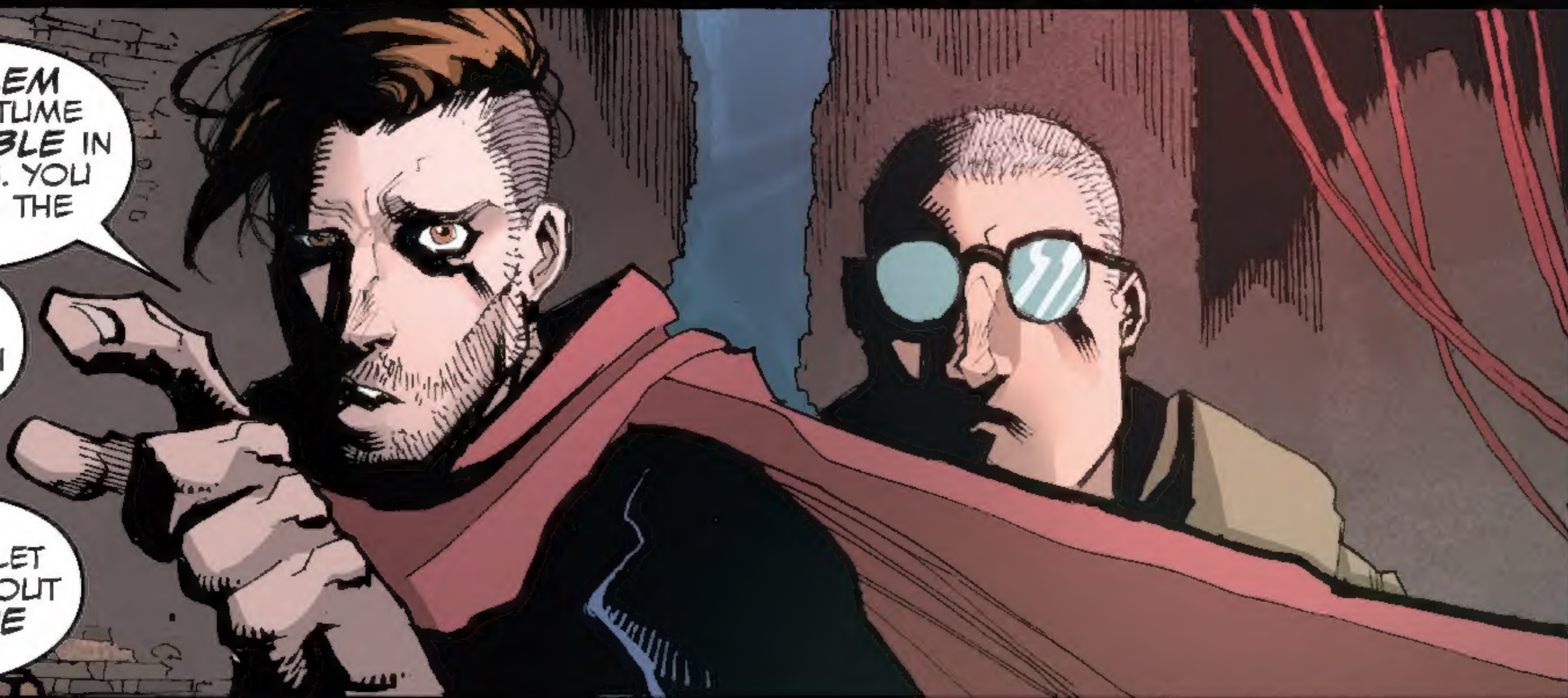
COME ON,
WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM,
JOHNNY?

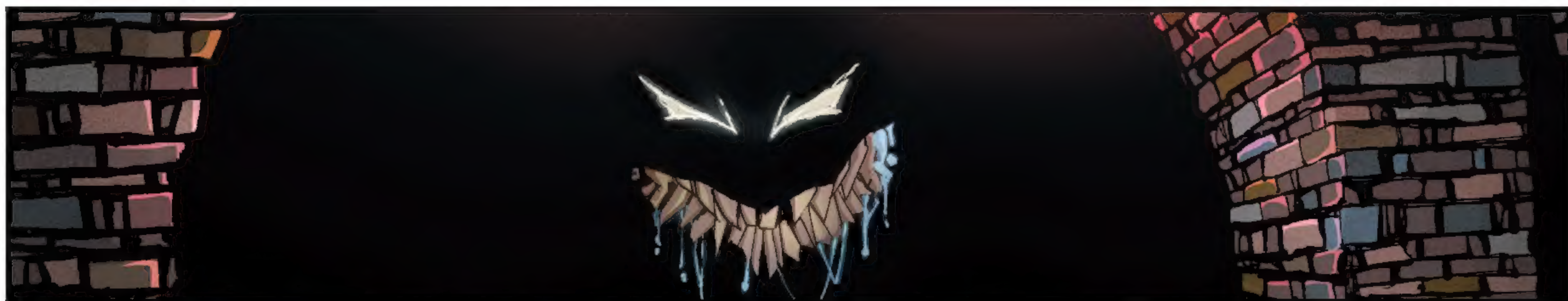
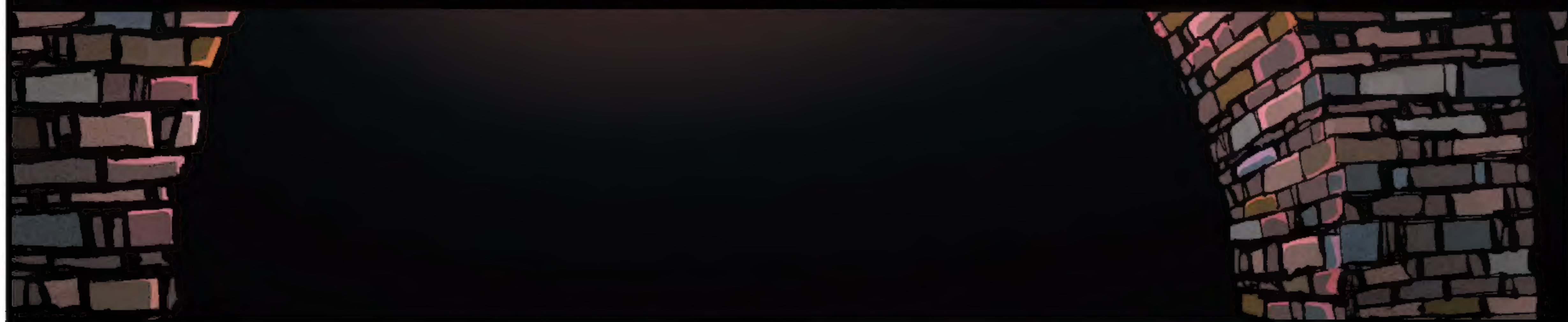
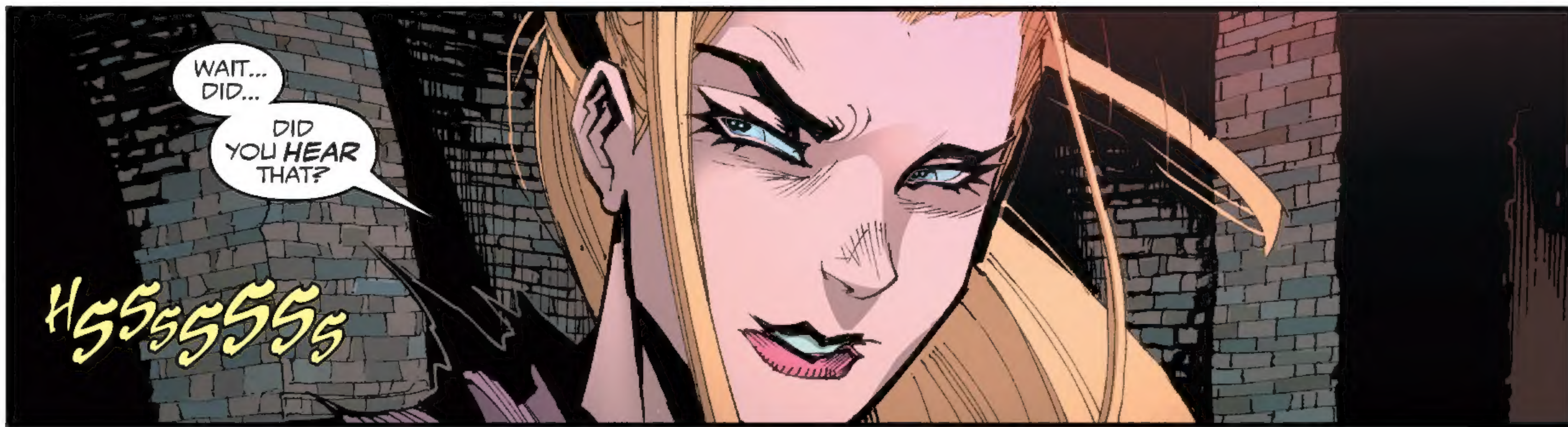
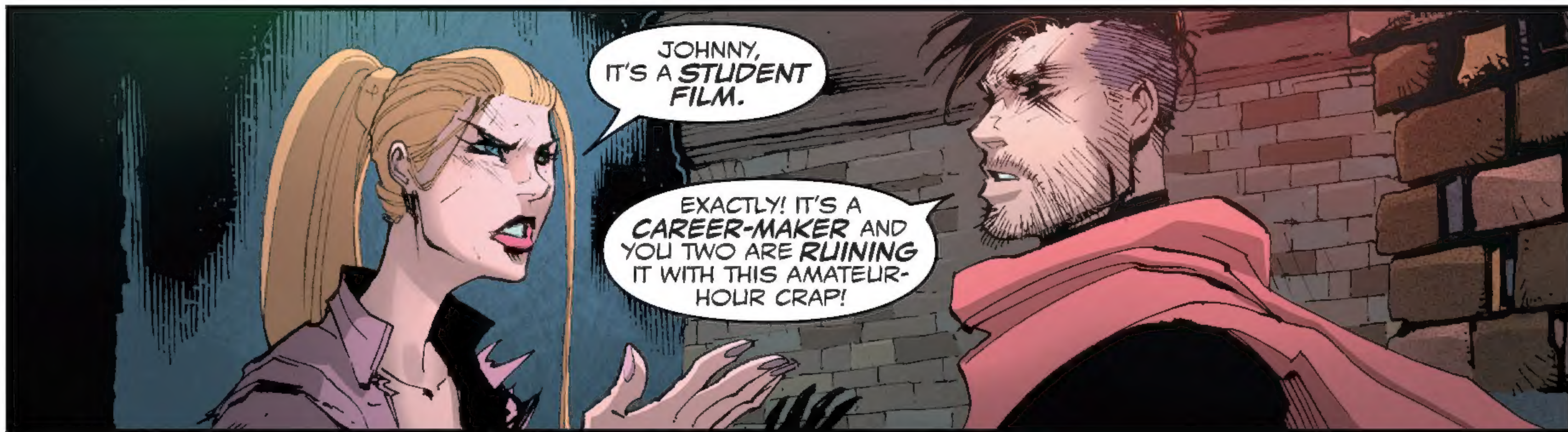
THIS
SLIT IS
HOT.

THE PROBLEM
IS, THAT COSTUME
LOOKS TERRIBLE IN
THESE LIGHTS. YOU
CAN SEE ALL THE
SEAMS.

NOBODY
IS GOING TO
WANT TO WATCH
THIS MOVIE.

I NEVER
SHOULD HAVE LET
YOU TALK ME OUT
OF THE NUDE
SCENE.





EEEEEEEEEEEP
BEEP
BEEP



WHY DID YOU
HURT THAT MAN?

MAN WANTED TO
HURT US, EDDIE.

HE WANTED TO **HELP**
US. HE'S A **GOOD** MAN,
A **PRIEST**. HE'S AN
INNOCENT.

WANTED TO
PULL US
APART.

NO ONE CAN **PULL US** APART.
BUT **YOU** CAN'T JUST DO THINGS
WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE, EVEN
IF YOU'RE **SCARED**.

IT MAKES
ME WORRY WHAT
ELSE YOU'VE DONE.
WHO ELSE YOU--

IT WAS A
MONSTER!

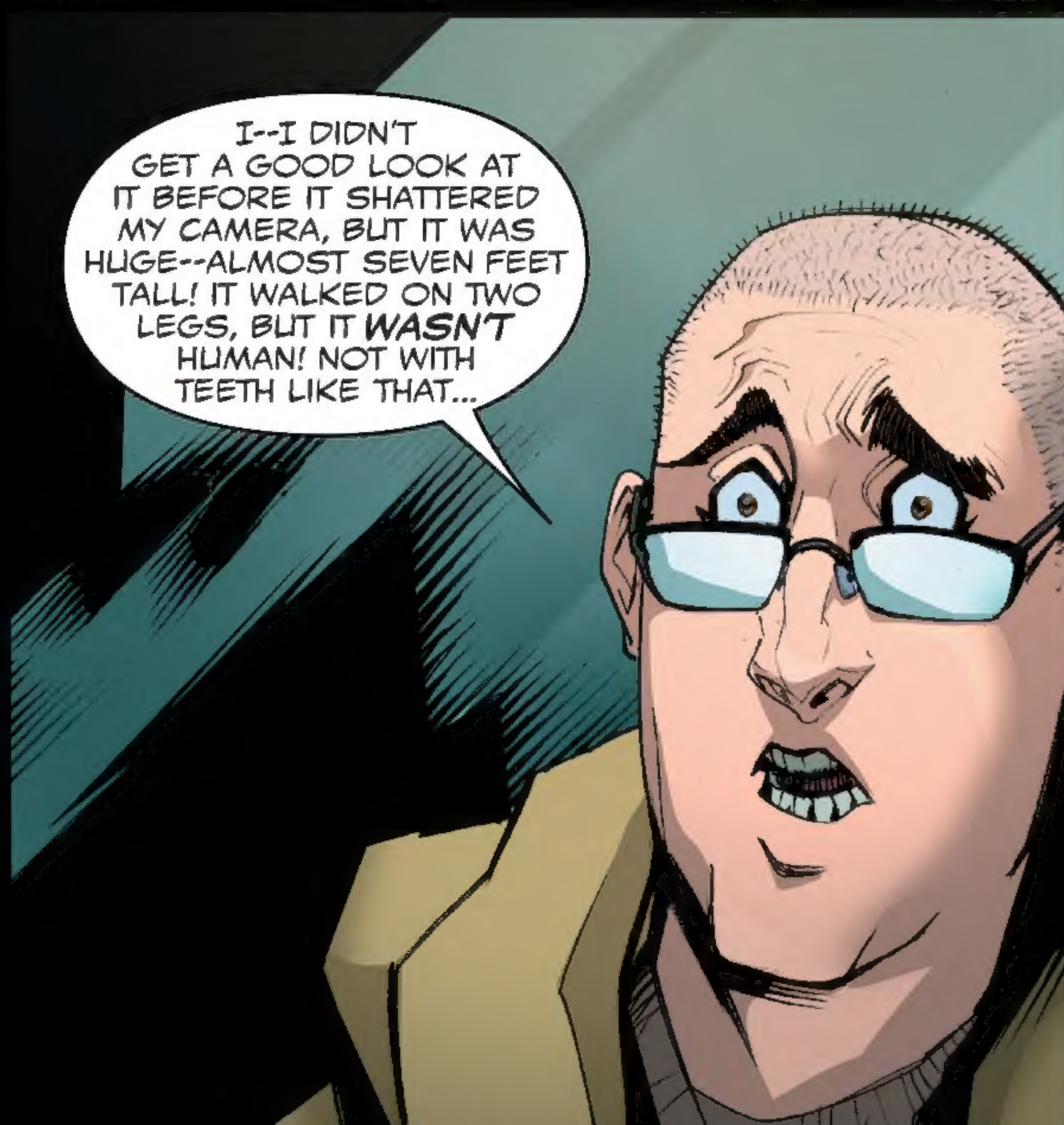
JUST
TRY TO **CALM**
DOWN.

IT--IT TORE
JOHNNY IN **HALF**.
RIPPED AMANDA'S
ARM OFF!

IF SOMEONE
ELSE IS HURT, YOU
HAVE TO TELL US WHERE
YOU WERE. WHERE DID
THIS **HAPPEN?**

IN THE
SEWERS. BY
OUR LADY OF
SAINTS.

NO...





KID SAID HE
CAME IN
THROUGH HERE.

GOING TO
HUNT THE
MONSTER,
EDDIE.

GOING TO
BE HEROES!

YES.
HEROES.



CAN'T FOOL ME,
EDDIE. I KNOW
THIS FEELING.

RELIEF.



YOU THOUGHT
"MONSTER"
WAS ME.

YOU
DON'T
TRUST
ME.

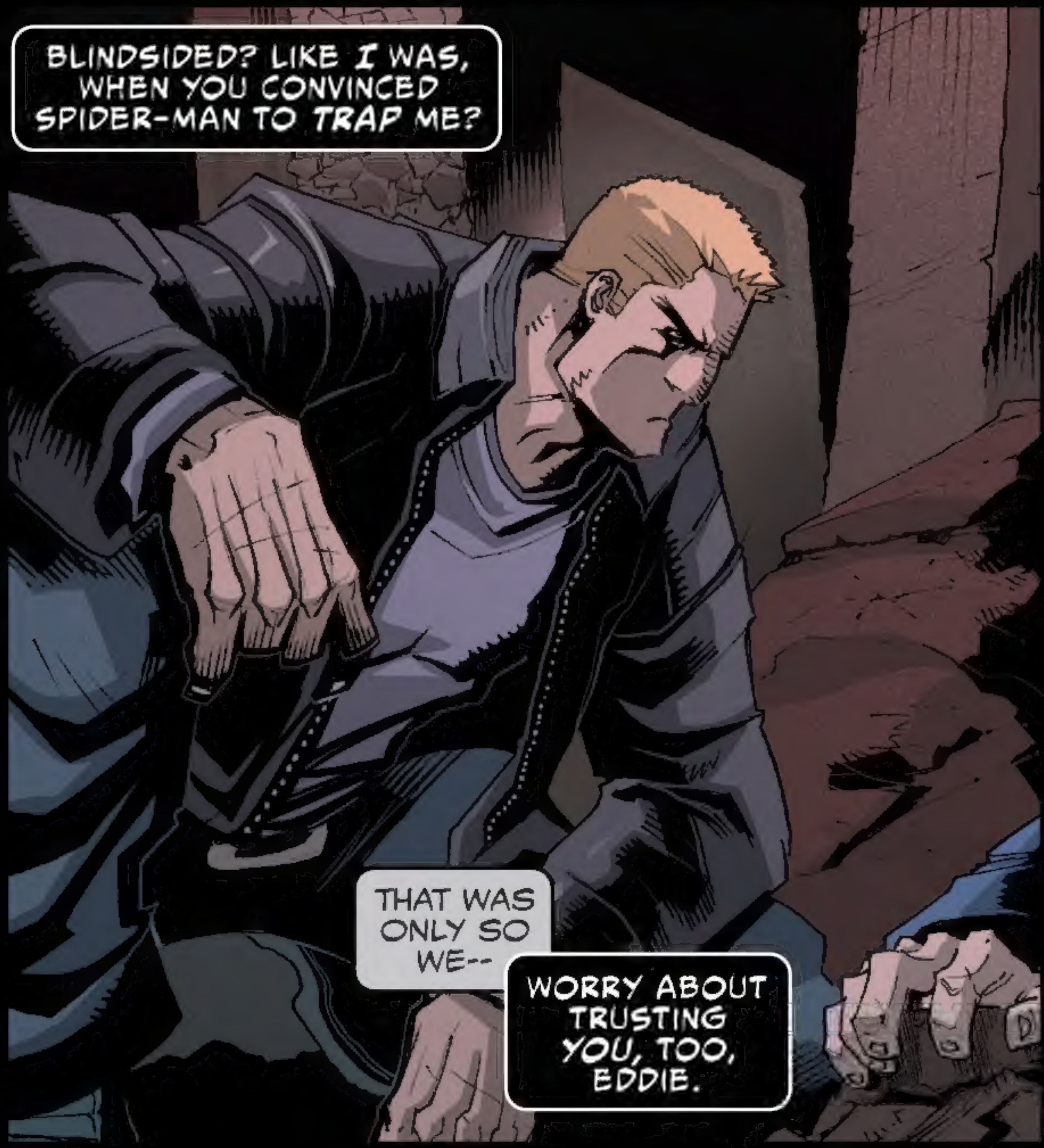


I WORRY ABOUT YOU.
THE ANGER, THE LASHING
OUT--I THOUGHT YOU'D
CHANGED, BUT...



...THIS--OUR RELATIONSHIP--
IT HAS TO BE DIFFERENT
THAN IT WAS LAST TIME.

I DON'T WANT TO
BE BLINDSIDED.



BLINDSIDED? LIKE I WAS,
WHEN YOU CONVINCED
SPIDER-MAN TO TRAP ME?

THAT WAS
ONLY SO
WE--

WORRY ABOUT
TRUSTING
YOU, TOO,
EDDIE.



FOUND THE
MONSTER, EDDIE--
BEHIND US!



AARH!



STUPID
TO COME DOWN
HERE AND REMAIN
EXPOSED.



AFTER
ALL, THERE ARE
MONSTERS IN
THIS TUNNEL.

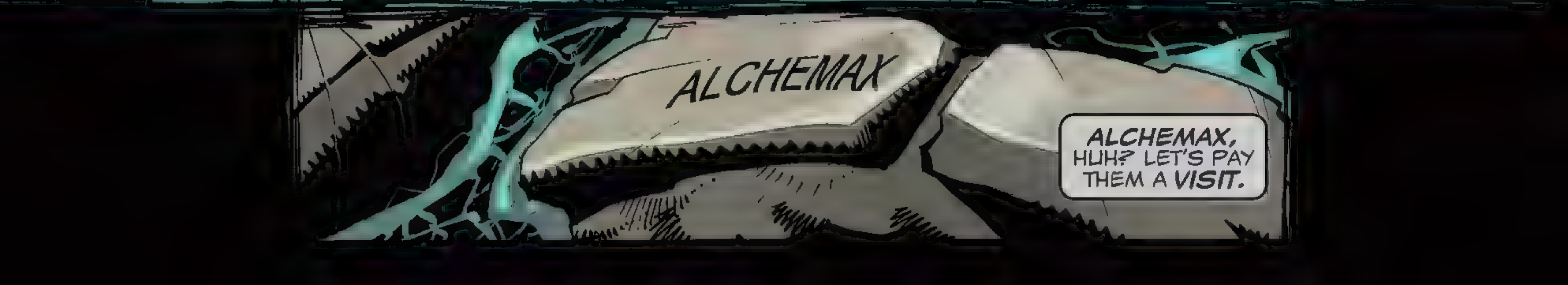
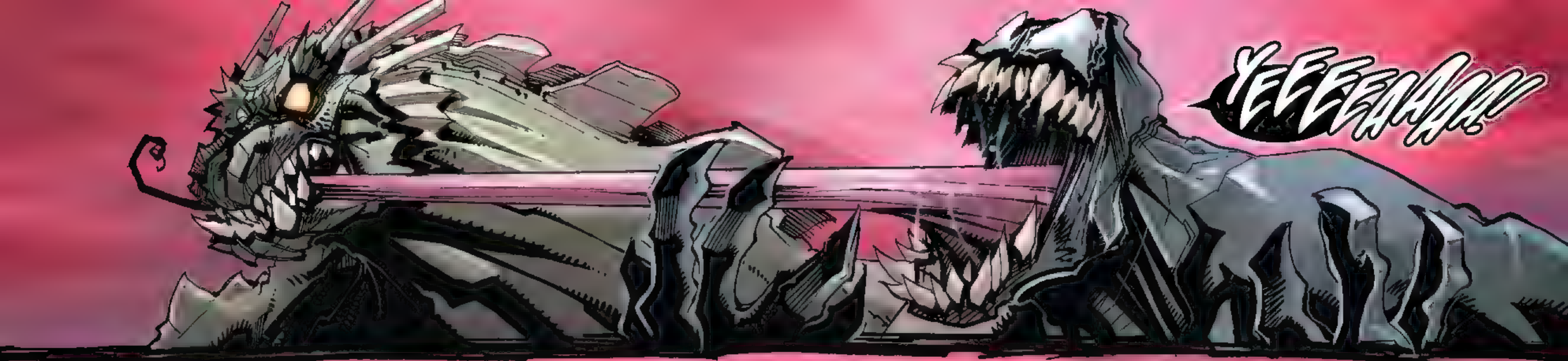


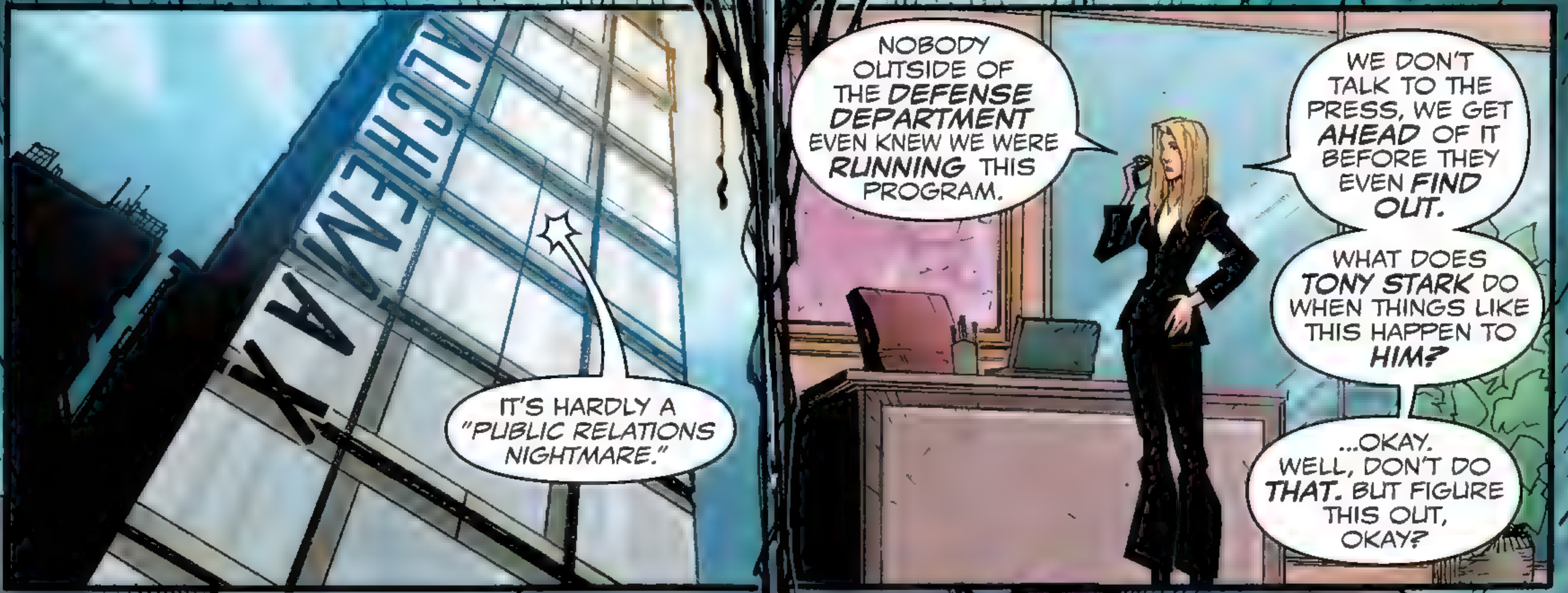


ANOTHER
MONSTER
WITH NO
BRAINS AND
A TAIL.

EASY
ENOUGH WHEN
YOU GET THE DROP
ON INNOCENT
CHILDREN.

BUT
WHEN YOU FACE A
REAL MONSTER,
YOU--





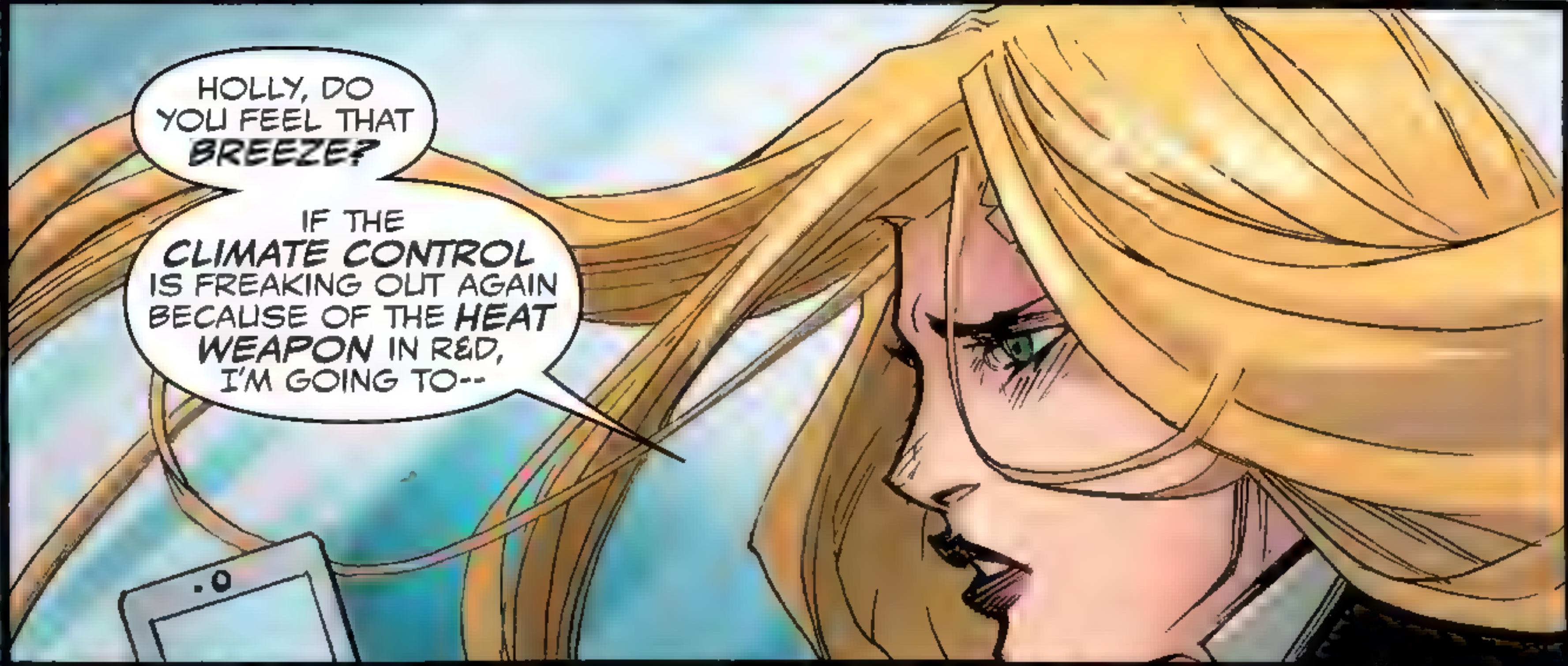
NOBODY OUTSIDE OF THE **DEFENSE DEPARTMENT** EVEN KNEW WE WERE **RUNNING** THIS PROGRAM.

WE DON'T TALK TO THE PRESS, WE GET **AHEAD** OF IT BEFORE THEY EVEN **FIND OUT**.

WHAT DOES **TONY STARK** DO WHEN THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN TO **HIM**?

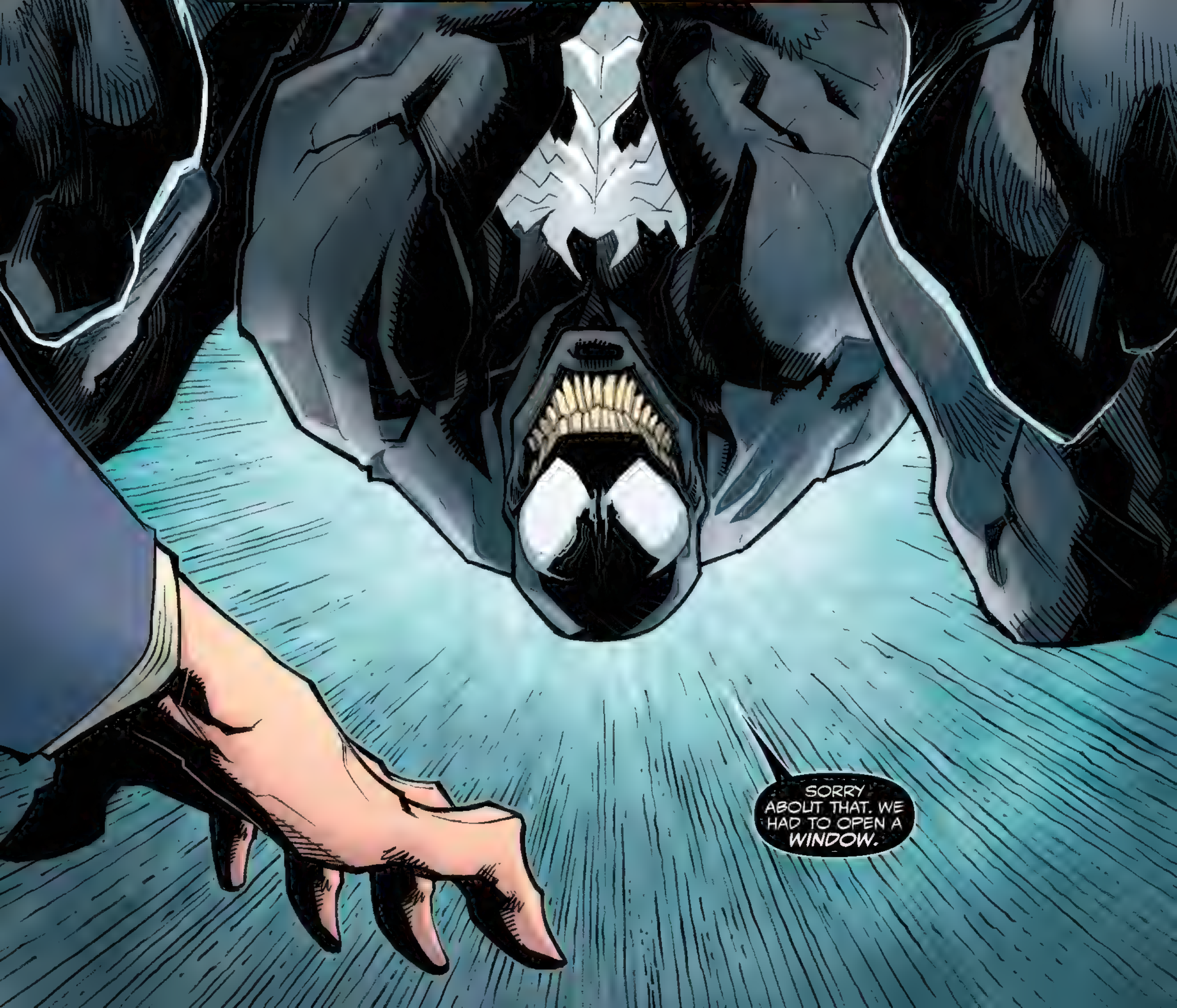
...OKAY. WELL, DON'T DO **THAT**. BUT FIGURE THIS OUT, OKAY?

IT'S HARDLY A "PUBLIC RELATIONS NIGHTMARE."



HOLLY, DO YOU FEEL THAT **BREEZE**?

IF THE **CLIMATE CONTROL** IS FREAKING OUT AGAIN BECAUSE OF THE **HEAT WEAPON** IN **R&D**, I'M GOING TO--



SORRY ABOUT THAT. WE HAD TO OPEN A **WINDOW**.



YOU'RE
LIZ ALLAN--C.E.O.
OF **ALCHEMAX**?
NICE OFFICE.



VENOM,
IS IT? I HEARD YOU
WERE WORKING FOR THE
MILITARY. WHAT HAPPENED?
DECIDED TO **BREAK**
BAD?

AGAIN?

SHOULD I CALL
SECURITY?



IN A
MINUTE,
YES.



YOU'LL
WANT THEM
TO HAUL **THIS**
AWAY.

AND
WHAT THE HELL
IS **THAT?**

YOU
TELL **ME.** IT'S
BRANDED WITH **YOUR**
COMPANY'S
LOGO.

PERHAPS
THIS IS THE "PUBLIC
RELATIONS NIGHTMARE"
YOU WERE TRYING
TO AVOID?

WHERE
DID YOU FIND
IT?



THE SEWERS.
IT DEVoured A PAIR OF
KIDS AND LEFT A THIRD
TRAUMATIZED.

YOU'RE LUCKY
I BROUGHT IT
HERE AND DIDN'T
TAKE IT TO
S.H.I.E.L.D.

ALCHEMAX
RELEASING
MONSTERS INTO
THE UNDERGROUND?
"NIGHTMARE" HARDLY
COVERS IT.



PLEASE.
YOU'RE A
SEVEN-FOOT-TALL
MONSTER WHO'S
ALSO A WANTED
FUGITIVE.

YOU CAME
HERE BECAUSE
YOU HAD NOWHERE
ELSE TO GO. SO,
LET'S GET TO THE
POINT--



WHAT
DO YOU WANT?
HUSH MONEY?

MY MERCENARY
DAYS ARE DONE. I'M
THROUGH SELLING
VIOLENCE.



IF YOU'D
DONE THIS OUT OF
THE KINDNESS OF YOUR HEART,
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SNUICK INTO
MY OFFICE WITH IT GRINNING
LIKE A CAT. YOU WANT
SOMETHING.

WHAT
I WANT...WHAT
WE WANT...



...IS YOUR
HELP.



HELP WITH
WHAT?

MS. ALLAN.
WHILE I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE
THE BOSS, AND I'M SIMPLY THE HEAD
OF OUR (DRASTICALLY UNDERFUNDED)
ASTRO-BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, I HAVE
MANY THINGS THAT REQUIRE
MY ATTENTION.



SO WHILE IT'S
ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTFUL TO
MEET YOUR HUGE, INTIMIDATING,
FOR-SOME-REASON-SHIRTLESS
BOYFRIEND, I'M WONDERING IF
I COULD GET BACK TO MY
SPECIMENS.

CHARMING
AS EVER, STEVEN, BUT
I WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED
YOU UP HERE IF IT WEREN'T
IMPORTANT.

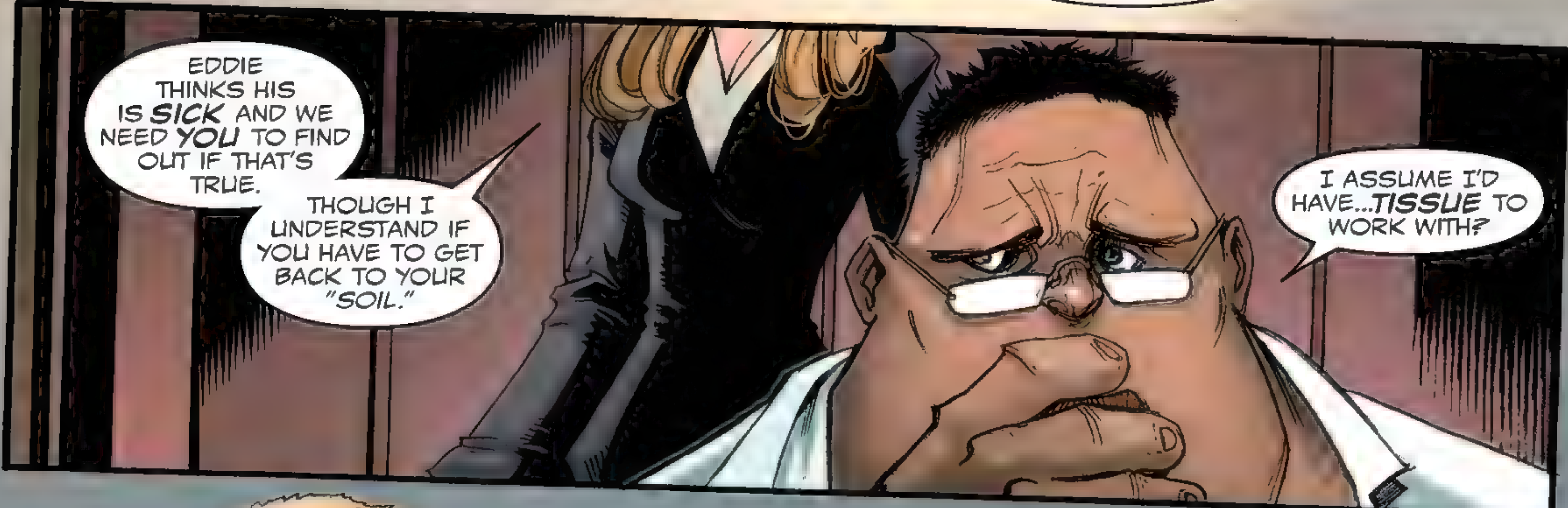
THIS IS
EDDIE.

TODAY, HE FOUND
SOMETHING THAT BELONGS
TO ALCHEMAX, SOMETHING VERY
VALLUABLE, AND HE BROUGHT IT
BACK TO US. IN EXCHANGE,
HE NEEDS OUR HELP.

YOUR
HELP.

WHAT
AM I--

SHH. LIVING
IN HIS VEINS IS AN
ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED
A SYMBIOTE. MYSELF, I
DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT
THEM, BUT I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT.



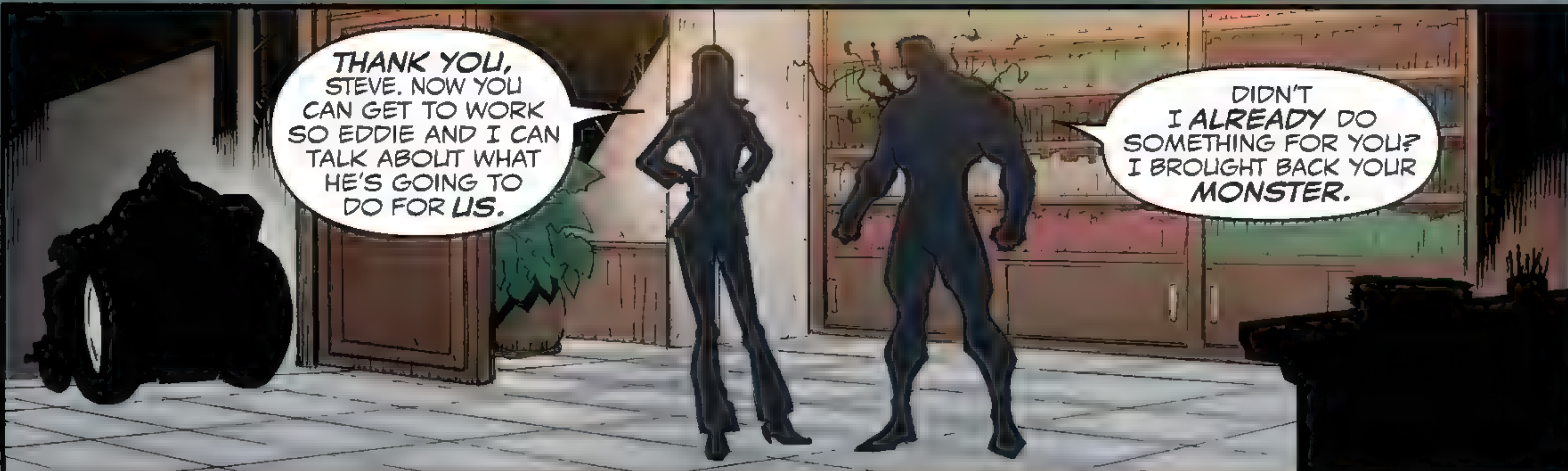
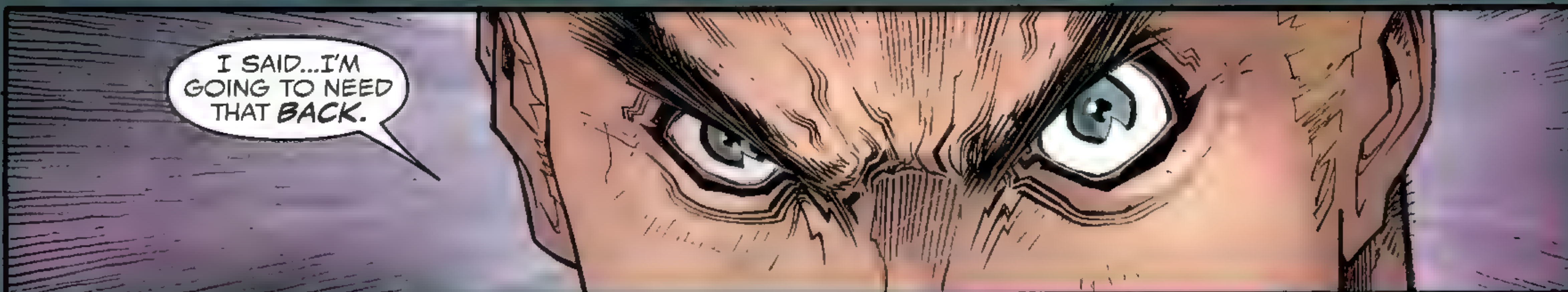
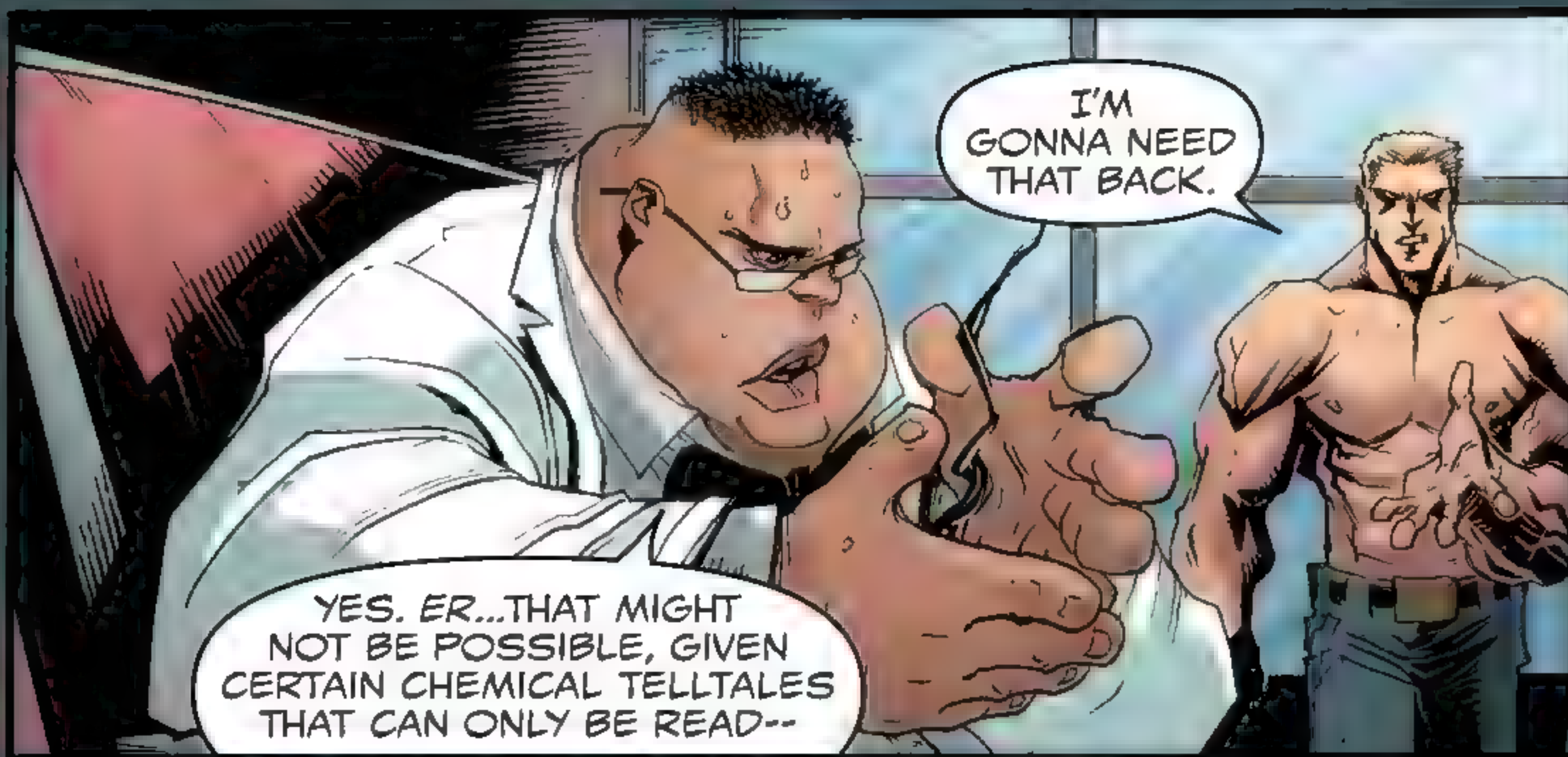
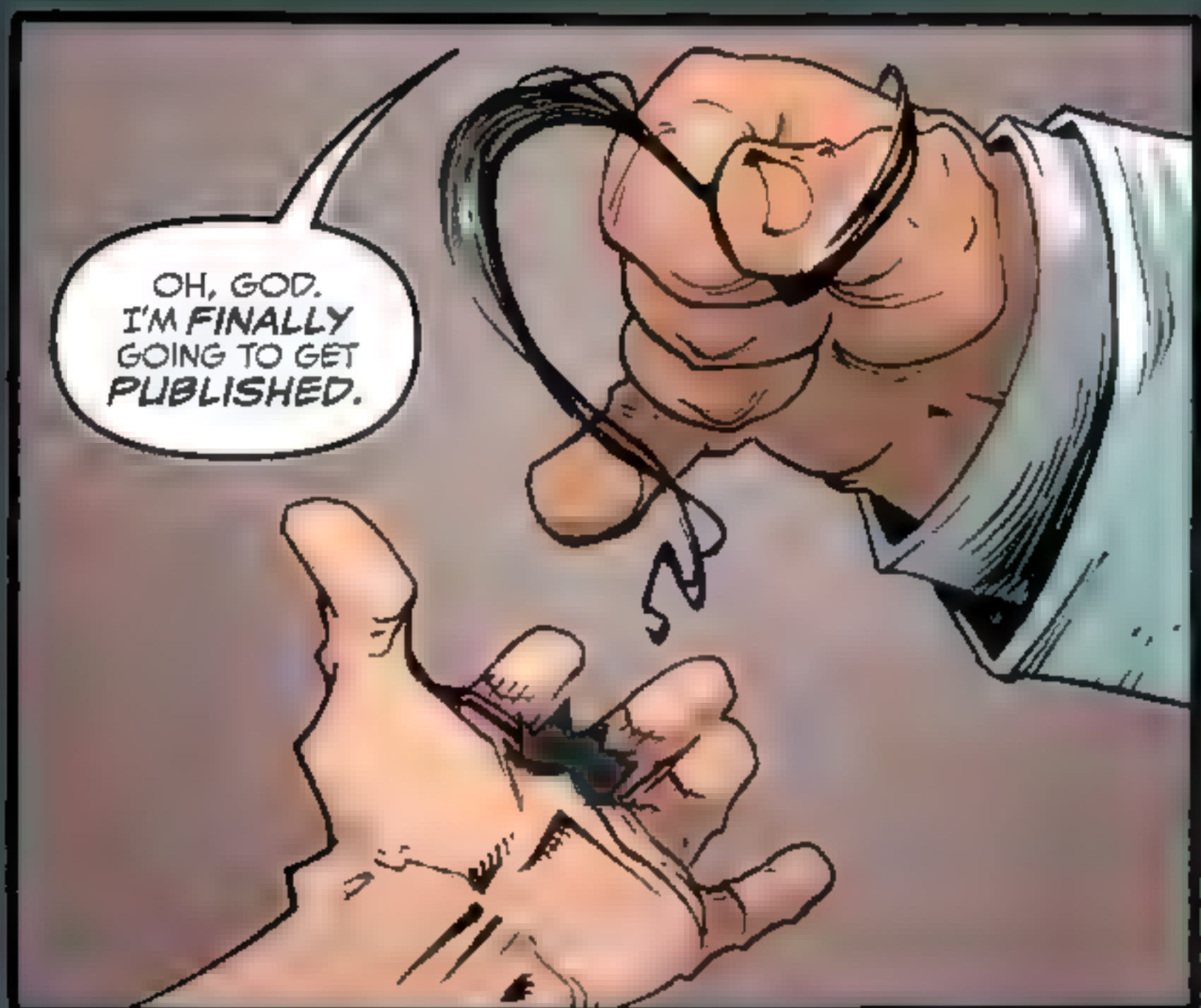
EDDIE
THINKS HIS
IS **SICK** AND WE
NEED **YOU** TO FIND
OUT IF THAT'S
TRUE.

THOUGH I
UNDERSTAND IF
YOU HAVE TO GET
BACK TO YOUR
"SOIL."

I ASSUME I'D
HAVE...**TISSUE** TO
WORK WITH?

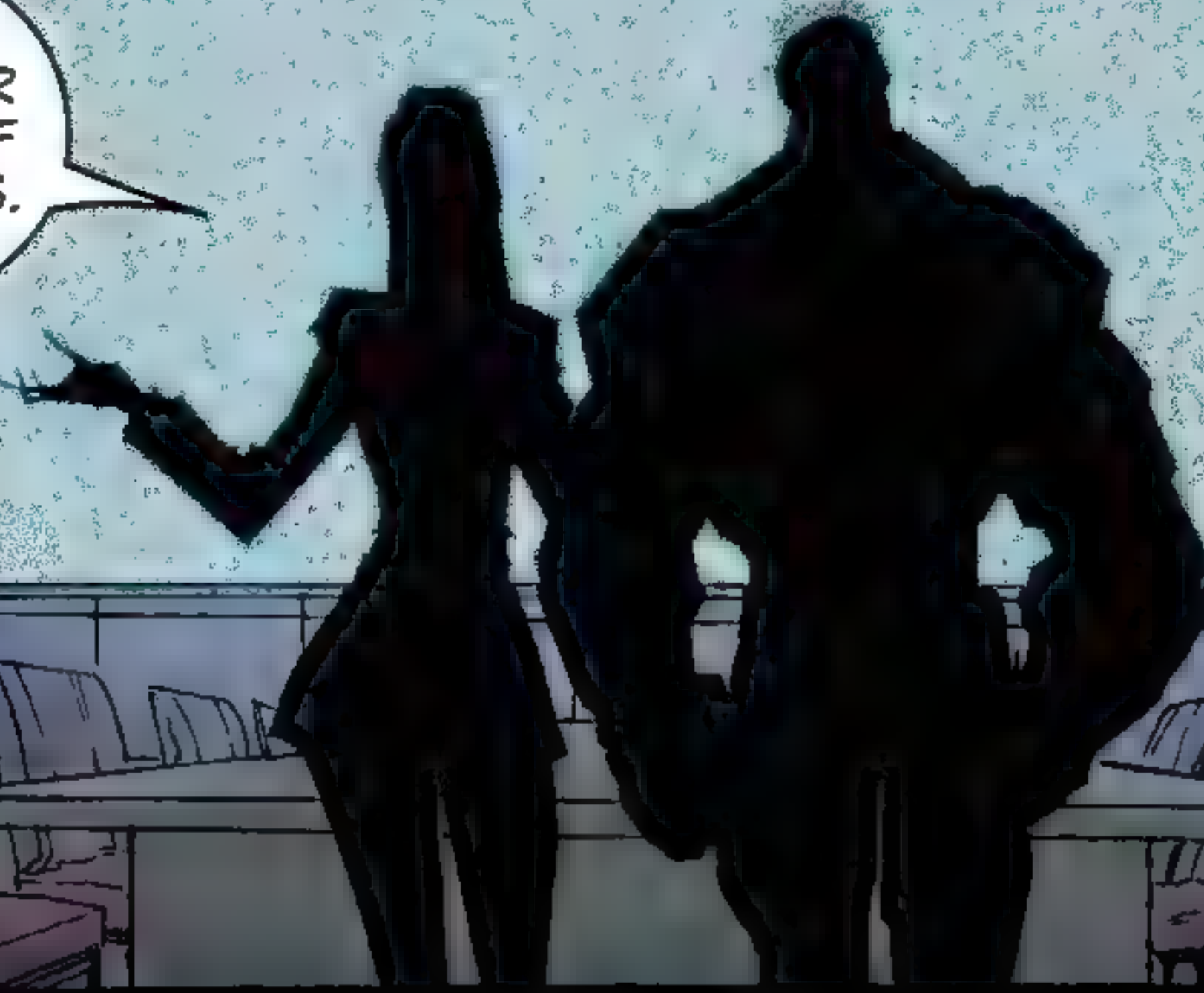


HERE.



ALCHEMAX HAS RESEARCHED MORE THAN A **FEW** PROJECTS FOR THE GOVERNMENT. MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN HARMLESS. ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE.

BUT SOME OF OUR MORE "MORALLY **DUBIOUS**" CONTRACTS WERE FOR THE **MILITARY**.



THIS IS **STEGRON**.

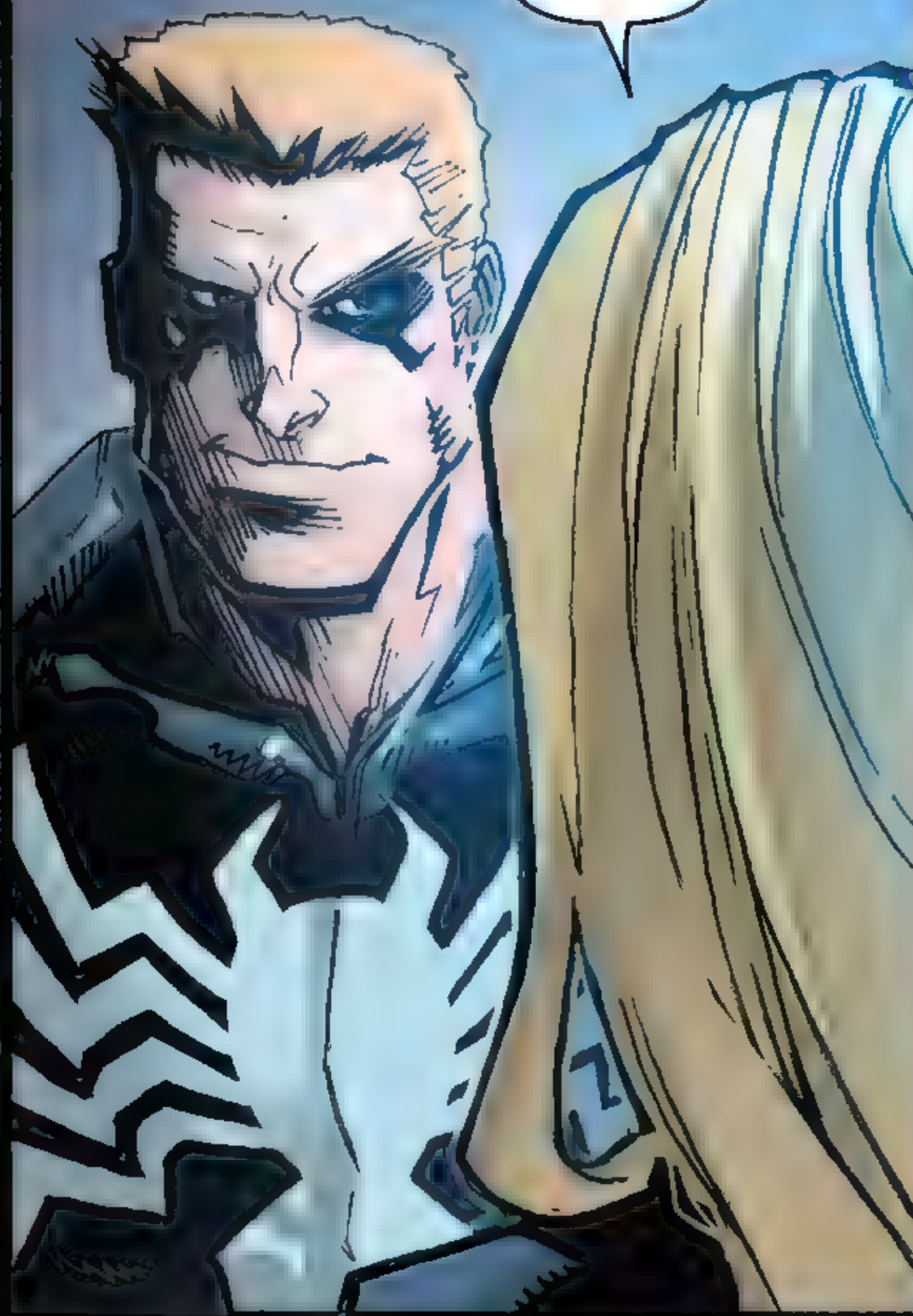
USING A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE SERUM THAT CHANGED **CURT CONNORS** INTO THE **LIZARD**, HE TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO A **DINOSAUR MAN**.

HE TURNED HIMSELF INTO A **DINOSAUR** AND CALLED HIMSELF **STEGRON**?

ACTUALLY, HIS NAME WAS ALREADY **DR. VINCENT STEGRON**.

HIS NAME WAS **VINCENT STEGRON** AND HE TURNED HIMSELF INTO--

FOCUS UP.



ALCHEMAX WAS DOING RESEARCH INTO RAPID CELL GROWTH AND REPAIR FOR USE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

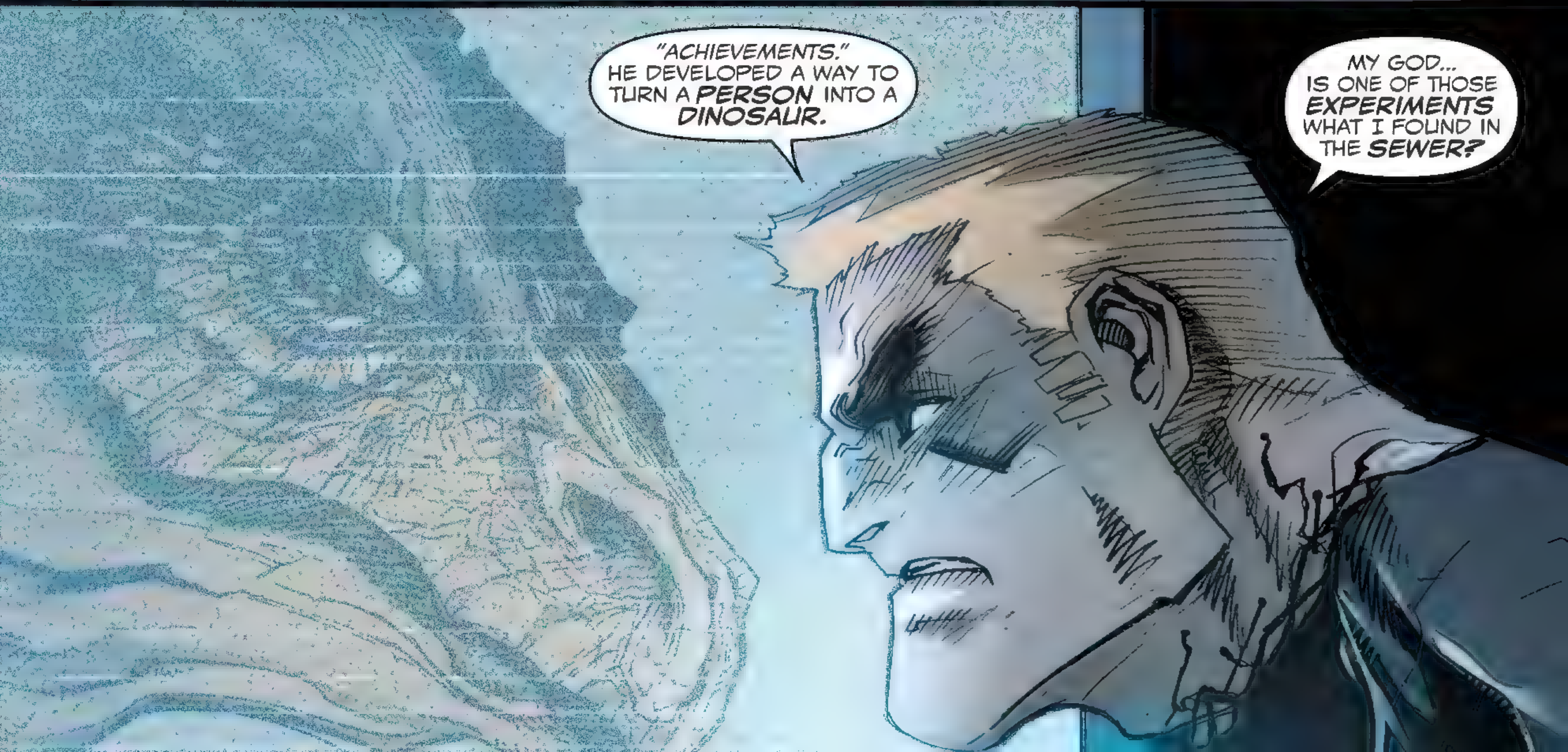
UNABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO **DR. CONNORS'** WORK, THE MILITARY TRANSFERRED STEGRON INTO OUR CUSTODY.

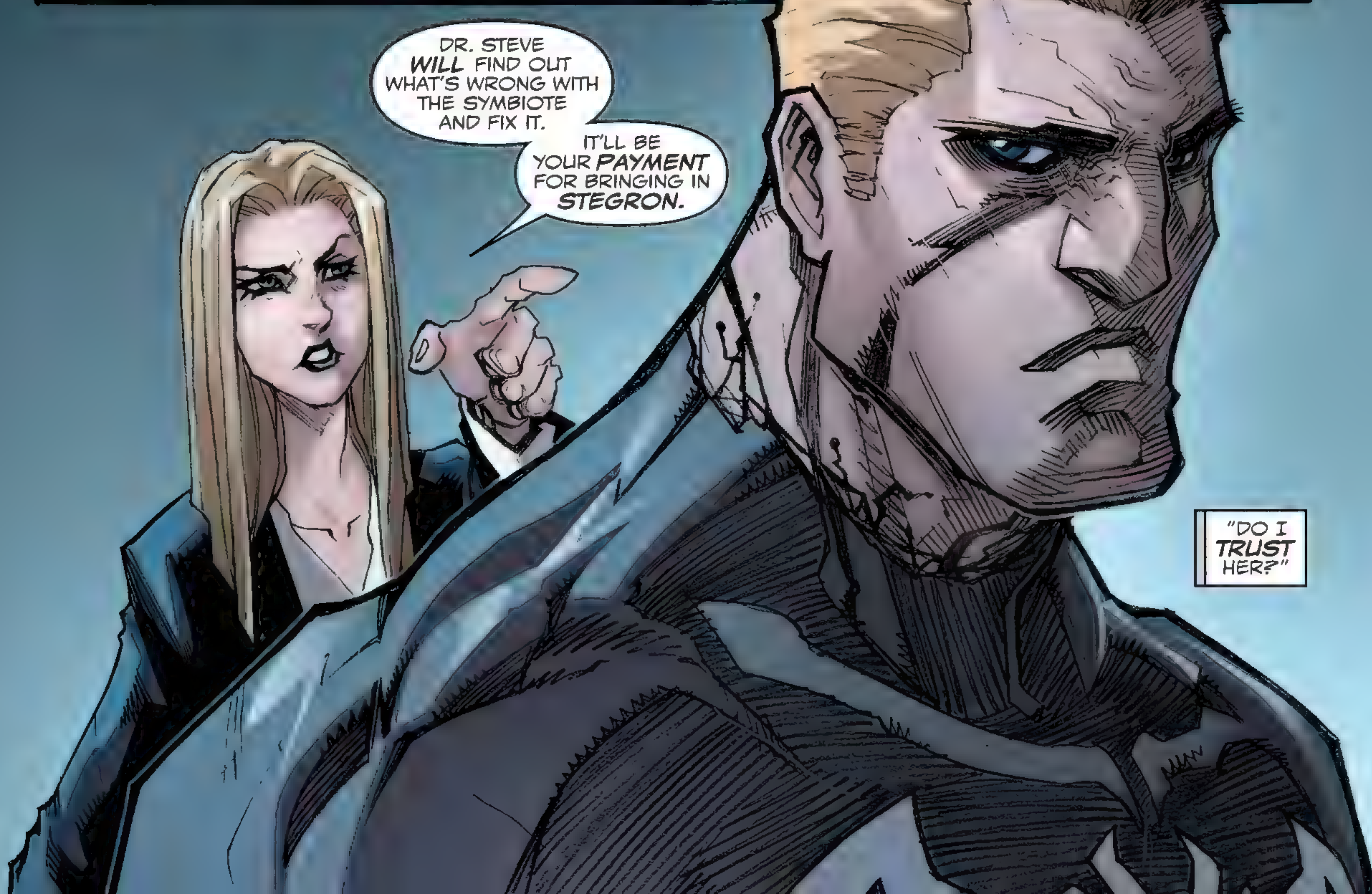
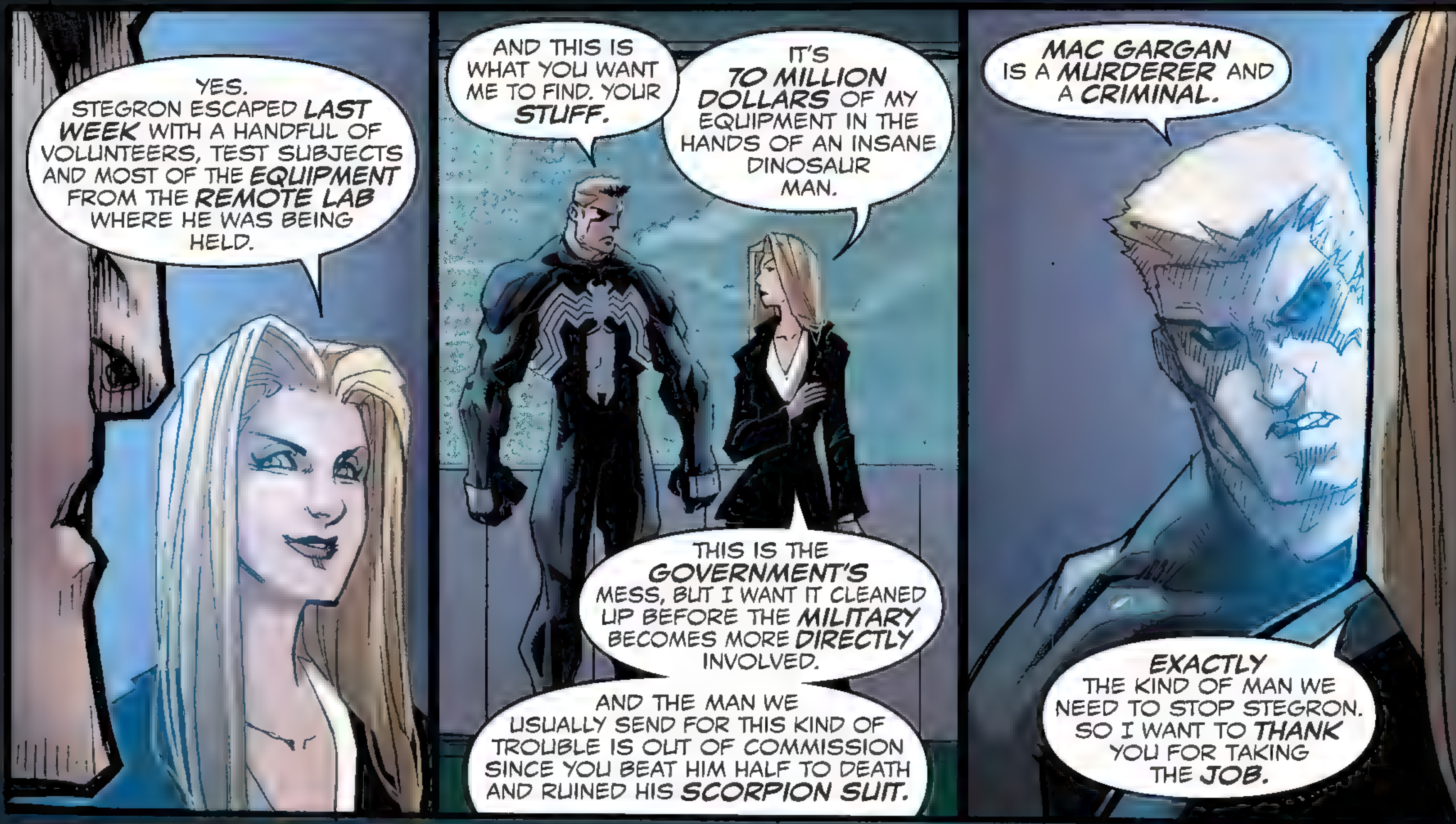
HE WAS DETAINED IN A LAB AT ONE OF OUR FACILITIES WHERE HE TRIED TO IMPROVE ON HIS PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS.



"ACHIEVEMENTS." HE DEVELOPED A WAY TO TURN A **PERSON** INTO A **DINOSAUR**.

MY GOD... IS ONE OF THOSE **EXPERIMENTS** WHAT I FOUND IN THE **SEWER**?





WE HAVE LITTLE CHOICE. LIZ ALLAN IS A SHREWD WOMAN, BUT SHE'S ONE OF THE ONLY PEOPLE IN NEW YORK WITH THE RESOURCES TO HELP FIGURE OUT WHAT'S MAKING US SO...ANGRY.

AND SHE **WONT** DOUBLE-CROSS US. WE'RE HER COMPANY'S ONLY CHANCE AT FINDING STEGRON AND PREVENTING ANY FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE.

THAT ALONE IS REASON ENOUGH TO HELP HER.

BESIDES...I **FELT** YOUR RUSH OF EXCITEMENT WHEN WE SAW THE FOOTAGE OF STEGRON.

FINALLY, SOMETHING TO TAKE OUT YOUR **RAGE** ON.

OOOOH. SMELLS... FETID.

WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS "STEGRON" IDIOT AND THE REMAINING SAD FREAKS HE HAS WITH HIM **EASILY**.

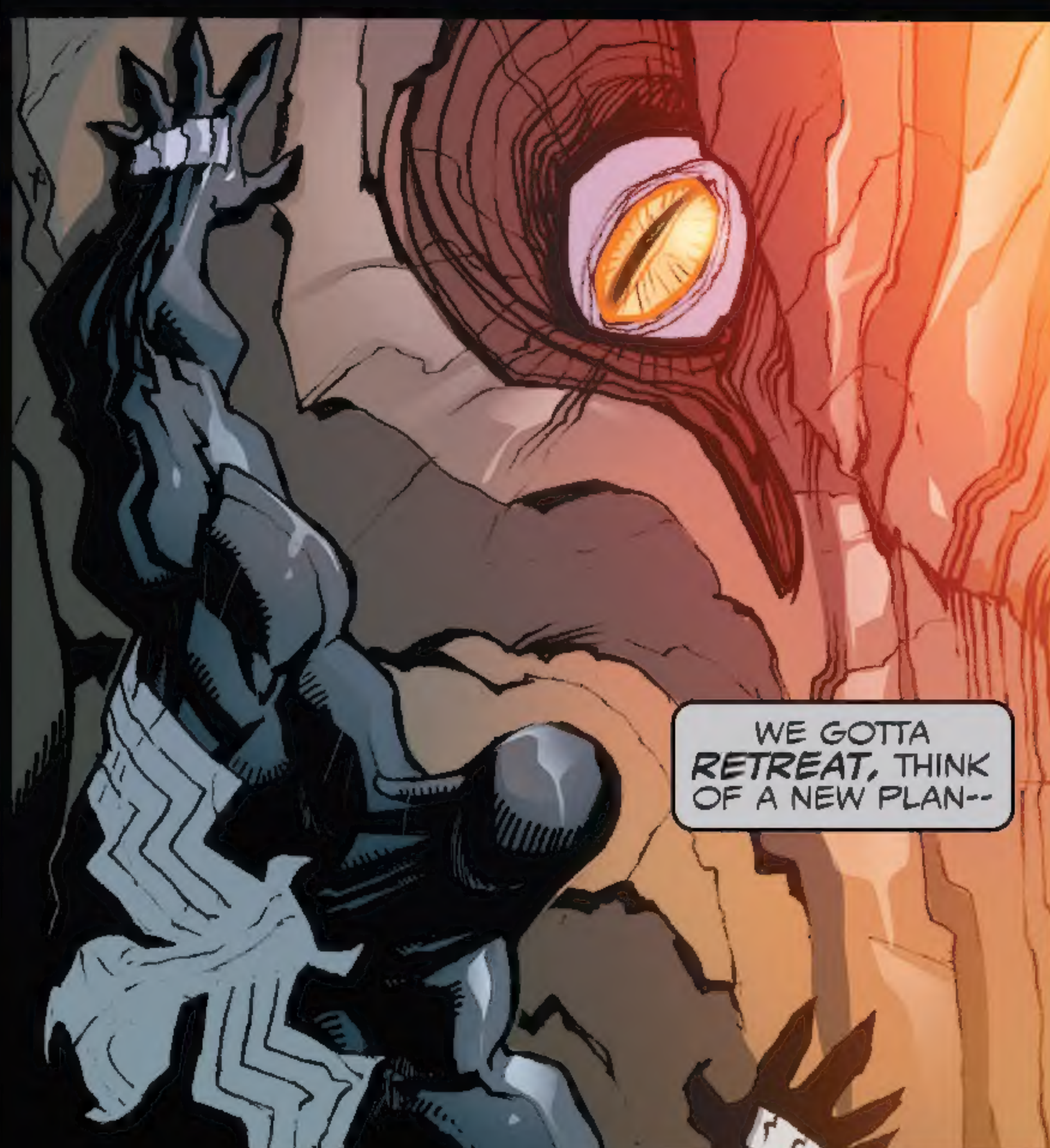
WHAT IS...?



OH.
THIS
IS *BAD*.



THERE
MUST BE...
HUNDREDS.
WE CAN'T
HOPE TO TAKE
THEM ALONE.



WE GOTTA
RETREAT, THINK
OF A NEW PLAN--



SCREEEEEEEE!

AARRRGGG!

WHAT'S THIS? AN INTRUDER!

NO, MY CHILDREN. DON'T KILL IT.

BRING HIM FORWARD. YOU SEE WHAT THE MAMMALS DO? HOW THEY SLINK AND SPY?

THEY ARE NOT PROUD AND BOLD AS WE! THEY DO NOT HAVE THUNDER IN THEIR LUNGS!

THEY DO NOT BELONG IN THE NEW WORLD THAT IS ABOUT TO BE BORN--THE WORLD WHERE YOU, MY PEOPLE, WILL CRUSH THE MAMMALS BENEATH OUR FEET AND BETWEEN OUR JAWS.

THE WORLD THAT
STEGRON,
THE DINOSAUR MAN,
WILL BRING, BORN IN
BLOOD AND
TERROR!

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:



ON SALE NEXT MONTH!

